Vol. IX. Numb. 14

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflexions on the late ſeditious Tumults in London, Weſtminſter, *&c. and Arguments to prove, that this Popiſh and High-Church Plot has been univerſally laid thro' the Kingdom. A Letter from* Surry *to that Effect, and of the Practices of the High-flyers to hoard up Coin there on Purpoſe to heighten Diſcontents among the People, and the treaſonable Practices of ſome Officers of the Exciſe in that County.*

From Wednesday, March 1. to Saturday, March 4. 1709.

Country-m. WELL, Maſter, are not you and I much oblig'd to the high-flying Faction?

Obſ. How, *Roger?*

Country-m. Why, Maſter, they have plainly prov'd to the World, that we were not miſtaken in telling the Publick ſo often, that they had ſome damnable Plot on foot, otherwiſe their Pulpit-Incendiaries would never have been ſo impudent. Now they have made it out with a Witneſs, by their Mobs and Rabbles all over the Kingdom, eſpecially in and about the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and the Burrough of *Southwark*.

Obſ. Hold, *Roger*, not too faſt; ſudden Tumults can't well be call'd Plots. This is only a Salley of High-Church Fury.

Country-m. Don't you turn Advocate for them, Maſter; the Thing is ſo plain, that it ſpeaks for it ſelf. I own it to be a Sally of brutiſh Fury, and that there's a great Degree of Folly, as well as of Madneſs in it, but you know the Faction have been preparing for it a great while; and tho' they have ſpoil'd the Plot by their Precipitancy, it does not therefore ceaſe to be one. You know the Papiſts ſpoil'd theirs by the Murder of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, and by the furious Zeal of the late King *James*, who drove on like a *Jehu*, and declar'd himſelf too ſoon. In like Manner our Nonjurants and High-flyers ſpoil'd their former Plots by puſhing on their aſſaſſinating Deſign with too much Eagerneſs, before the late King, with his *French* and *Iriſh* Cut-throats, could land to ſupport them, or at leaſt before Matters were fully ripe. Now, tho' all thoſe Things were Sallies of Fury, yet they were the Effects of a premeditated Deſign.

Obſ. I own the Truth of what you ſay, *Roger*, only I had a Mind to try how you would manage your Argument. The Deſign has been carrying on ever ſince the Revolution, and appear'd plain as ſoon as the Faction recover'd a little Breath, after that happy and ſudden Turn of Affairs; for in the very Convention they doubl'd like Hares hard put to it. They made Uſe of all their Art to ſave the ſlaviſh Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance, which has now broke out into open Sedition and Rebellion. They would not have the Throne to be vacant, tho' they could not or durſt not tell who they thought to be in it; then they cover'd themſelves under the Word Abdication, becauſe it has been made Uſe of formerly in a double Senſe, *viz.* both to imply a voluntary Renunciation, and a forcible Dethronement. You know how that Point has been labour'd by the Faction ever ſince. Their Oracle, the late *Rehearſal*, us'd all the Wit he had of his own, or that the Faction could inſpire him with, to put the firſt Senſe upon it excluſive of all others. The High-Church Party have all along chim'd in with it, and their preſent Bell-weather *Sacheverell*, ſays expreſly in his Twopenny Sermon at St. *Paul's*, p. 13. 'That the late King *William* diſclaim'd the leaſt 'Imputation of Reſiſtance, and that the Parlia-'ment declar'd they ſet the Crown upon his Head 'upon no other Title but that of the Vacancy of 'the Throne. This was a new Double to ſave the ſlaviſh Propoſition, tho' expreſly contrary to the Declaration of Rights, that relates the ſeveral Steps by which King *James* had made the Throne vacant, and abdicated the Government, without taking the leaſt Notice of his Retreat out of the Kingdom, which is all that the Faction will have to be meant by the Word Abdication; yet every one knows, that the two Houſes underſtood by it the ſeveral Invaſions he had made upon our fundamental Conſtitution, and his obſtinate Perſiſtance in the ſame Method of Government, as appears by their printed Debates on that Head. *Heylin*, one of the Apoſtles of the Faction, uſes the Word Abdication in the ſame Senſe, with Relation to *Chriſtiern* the IIth of *Denmark*, whom he owns to have been drove out of the Kingdom for his Tyranny, p. 441. of his Coſmography, publiſh'd in 1703.

But the Faction put their Thumb upon thoſe Things, '*in order to keep alive their ſlaviſh Doctrine, 'like hot Embers cover'd over with Aſhes, ready to be 'be blown up again into a Flame upon the firſt Occaſi-'on*, as was judiciouſly obſerv'd long ago by Mr. *Moldſworth*, in the Preface to his Account of *Denmark*, which now we ſee verify'd with a Vengeance.'

Country-m. With a Vengeance indeed, Maſter; *Sacheverell's* Diſciples have convinc'd us to our Coſt, how they underſtood their Maſter's Doctrine. They have explain'd what he meant by the *Lives and Fortunes* there were ready to ſupport it, in the Dedication of his *Derby*-Sermon; and by that Paſſage in p. 19. of his St. *Paul's*-Sermon, *viz.* 'That 'Queen *Elizabeth*, like a Queen of true Religion 'and pious Zeal both for the Monarchy and Hie-'rarchy, pronounc'd, that ſuch were the reſtleſs 'Spirits of that factious People, (meaning the old 'Puritans, which includes both moderate Church-'men and Diſſenters) that no Quiet was to be 'expected from them, 'till they were utterly ſup-'preſs'd. Accordingly, Maſter, they have, in a tumultuous and rebellious Manner, deſtroy'd the Meeting-houſes of Mr. *Burges* near *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, Mr. *Earl* in *Long-acre*, Mr. *Bradbury* in *New-Street*, Mr. *Taylor* in *Leather-Lane*, Mr. *Wright* in *Black-Fryars*, Mr. *Hamilton* in *Clerkenwell*, and burnt the Pulpits and Pews, *&c.* in the Streets. Beſides, they have batter'd and plunder'd the Houſes of ſome of thoſe Gentlemen and others, inſulted both Houſes while trying the Ring-Leader of this Sedition, affronted Dukes, Lords, and other particular Members of both Houſes, and threaten'd to pull down the Lord Chancellor's Houſe, and thoſe of ſome of the Judges. They purſu'd one of the Managers of the Tryal for the Houſe of Commons; and to prove that they perfectly well underſtood who their Apoſtle meant by falſe Brethren, aſſaulted the right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of *Sarum* in his Coach, call'd him by opprobrious Names, and would no Doubt have proceeded farther, had not a Party of the Guards come ſeaſonably up to his Reſcue. Nay, on *Wedneſday* Night had they

not

not been dispers'd by the Guards, and several of their Ring-Leaders taken, they talk'd of destroying the reverend Mr. *Hoadly*'s Church and House *Salters-hall*, Mr. *Shores*'s, and other Meeting-houses in the City, and of attacking the Bank, as some of their Friends run upon it, for their Money at the Time of the late Invasion, in order to destroy the Credit of the Kingdom, and throw us into an universal Confusion. They huzza'd the Criminal as he went and came from his Tryal in great State, knock'd down all that would not take off their Hats to their High-Church Idol; and their Word during the Riot, was, *God damn ye, we are for High-Church and* Sacheverell. Nor was the Tumult only carry'd on by the rascally Mob, but by some of the yet more villanous 10000 *l.* Mob, who gave Money to the Rabble out of their Coaches; and they were farther encourag'd by some of the high-flying false Brethren, who put their unsanctify'd Noddles out of the Coaches, to shew their Satisfaction in what the Rabble were doing. There were also Men with red Coats, long Wigs and Swords, with Foot-men attending them, that encourag'd the Mob to pull down Mr. *Burges*'s Meeting-house, and damn'd some Boys that held Candles, because it would discover them. One of them, a young Fellow, Heir to a good Estate, who had threaten'd what he would do before-hand, was overtaken by divine Justice in the Act, and knock'd on the Head by a Casement, as he help'd to pull down Mr. *Burges*'s Meeting. Nay, notwithstanding their being dispers'd and flash'd by the Guards on *Wednesday* Night, their Fury was so high wrought, that they huzza'd the Criminal again as he went and came from his Tryal on *Thursday*, and in all Probability had gone on with the Tumult, had they not been ptevented by the Guards and Train-bands, and a Number of Gentlemen from a Coffee-house at *Charing-Cross*, which they threaten'd to pull down, because the Mistress of the House told *Higgins*, one of their Pulpit-Incendiaries, his Due, when he came thither, and express'd himself, so as indeed better became the Person, than his Function. But blessed be God, Master, there's a Stop put to their Fury, abundance of their Ring-Leaders, some of whom are profess'd Papists, are taken up; and we have no Reason to doubt but our Goverment and Legislature will enquire into the Bottom of the Matter; for we have Accounts of the like rebellious Tumults from many other Parts of the Kingdom: So that the Plot seems to have been universally laid, in Concert with the *French* Tyrant and the Pretender, in order to prevent the Conclusion of a Peace, which they know will be fatal to their Cause, and extinguish their Hopes of enjoying the *St. Germains* Babe of Grace, who being nurs'd up in Popery and Tyranny, will make an excellent Head for such a Body as High-Church, and their belov'd Brethren, the Papists, who associated with them in the Tumult.

Obs. They have now discover'd themselves so much, *Roger*, that while we have History in *Great Britain* their Memory will stink, and be the Execration of all Men who wish well to the Church and State. There's a strong Report of Letters intercepted to *France*, encouraging that Tyrant not to make Peace, because there would be Work enough carv'd out to divert this Island, which is the main Stay of the Confederacy, from giving him any Trouble, or to that Effect: But whether this be true or not, *Roger*, we have no reason to doubt that such a Correspondence is carry'd on. *Gregg*'s Tryal, the timeing of this seditious Uproar, and the Agents in it already discover'd, is sufficient to convince us of that. Besides, I have a Letter just now from *Surry*, of the 2d Instant, with an Account, '*That abundance of Letters were sent thither to* '*give Information to the Party, that the Mob was to* '*rise in* London, *to hinder the Tryal of* Sacheverell; '*that now was the time to bring in Mr.* Tacker; *so* '*they call the Pretender*: That the Officers of the 'Excise, and Collectors in those Parts, openly 'drink his Health, pull abusive Libels out of 'their Pockets against the Government, and par-'ticularly printed Verses, reflecting on the Pro-'ceedings of Parliament, on Mr. *Hoadly*, Mr. *Bur-'ges*, &c. which is another Proof of the Designs 'being laid before-hand. The Letter adds, 'That 'the high-flying Clergy there will not so much as 'read the Votes of Parliament: That some Super-'visors of the Excise boast of the Number of the '*Jacobites* in *England*, who, they were sure, would 'rise for the Pretender: That one *High-flyer* in 'that Country has 2000 Quarters of Wheat by 'him, which he keeps Men to turn; and that se-'veral others have 7 or 800 Quarters a piece, of 'which they will not sell one Bushel, on purpose 'to increase the Want of Bread, and Discontents 'among the People. This puts me in Mind of what I have read in the History of *Portugal*, *Roger*, that when there was a Plot on foot to overturn the *Spanish* Government in that Kingdom, and set up the Duke of *Braganza*, our late Queen *Dowager*'s Father, his Party took the same Methods to raise the Price of Bread, to fall Trade, and work up the People to effect a Revolution, which they accomplish'd. This agrees with other Advices we have formerly had from *Surry*, and from a worthy Gentleman in *Northamptonshire*, of the Endeavours of the Faction to raise the Price of Bread, and hinder Corn from coming to Market. These Things falling so patly in with the present Tumults all over the Kingdom, are sufficient to prove, that the Plot has been laid deep; tho', blessed be God, they have outwitted themselves by their too much haste, which has given the Government an Opportunity to prevent them, and prov'd the Charge of the Commons against *Sacheverell* beyond Contradiction, *viz.* That his Sermons were calculated on purpose to raise Sedition and Rebellion; which has sav'd our honourable Patriots a great deal of Labour; tho' at the same time it has put the Government and the Kingdom to a vast Charge, which in this time of a general Decay of Trade, and Dearth of Bread, could very ill have been spar'd; but I hope our Legislature will find out the Springs of this Rebellion, and make the Fomenters of it indemnify the Nation out of their Estates. This I hope will not be thought unreasonable, since our publick Prints take Notice, that there's Ground to suspect the 30000 Arms embark'd at *Brest*, &c. and the Officers from *St. Germains* pretended to be for *Spain*, may be design'd to support the Faction here, and upon their Invitation too.

Advertisements.

☞ Over the Passage going into the Queen's-Arms-Tavern on Ludgate-hill, is lately open'd a new Dispensary by a Society of Physicians, who have provided a secret Cabinet of the best Medicines adapted to all Diseases, as particularly specify'd by their printed Bills, not deliver'd in the Streets, like Pretenders, who boast of performing Cures they never understood the Causes of, but distributed to every dwelling House, to inform the Publick of their Intentions; for whose Satisfaction and Benefit they have setl'd the Prizes of their Advice and Medicines in each Case, that all House-keepers and others may know their Charges before-hand.

☞ TINCTURA CÆLESTIS. The celebrated Medicine of the Age for many Years past, as an effectual Remedy in most chronical Diseases, to which most part of this Nation can give ample Testimony, but most particularly in the Stone of the Reins and Bladder, (in which its Virtues have been lately signaliz'd) in the Gout, Rheumatism, and all Joint Pains, Dropsy, Scurvy, Obstruction of the Stomach, Liver, Spleen, Mesentary, and other Bowels, whereby Concoction is hinder'd, and infinite Diseases are propagated; relieving also such as are afflicted with Vapours, and Fumes arising to the Head, which being fix'd thereto, cause Headach, Dizziness, Epilepsy, Appoplexy, and other dangerous and deplorable Diseases. It is prepar'd by the Author at the Colden Head in Blue Ball Court in Salisbury-Square in Fleet-street; and sold at 1 s. and 2 s. 6 d. the Bottles, and Directions how to use it.

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